

**REMARKS**

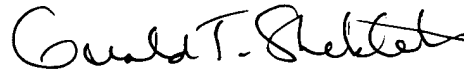
In the above-identified office action the Examiner has allowed claims 19-24, and has rejected claims 13-18 based on non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 13 so that it now positively recites an automatic vending machine as taking the steps of presenting the point information and transmitting the point information. As such, Applicants believe that claims 13-18 are now directed to statutory subject matter as they have a useful concrete and tangible application.

Applicants hereby request reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance and Applicants earnestly solicit an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Date: January 21, 2005  
**WELSH & KATZ, LTD.**  
120 South Riverside Plaza  
22nd Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3913  
Telephone: 312/655-1500

Respectfully submitted,  
**WELSH & KATZ, LTD.**



Gerald T. Shekleton  
Registration No. 27,466